

A new variety of *Arundinella setosa* Trin. from India¹

G. V. SUBBA RAO AND G. R. KUMARI
Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore
(With a plate)

Arundinella setosa Trin. var. **nilagiriana** var. nov.

Accedit ad *Arundinella setosam* Trin. var. *lanigeram* Fischer a quo tamen differt glumis hirsutis.

Holotypus *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A et isotypi *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B—F a G. V. Subbarao et G. R. Kumari die 11-ix-1970, paratypi vero *Subbarao* 40477A-J a G. V. Subbarao die 25-iii-1972 propinquus Koilbetta (alt. s.n. 1850 m) ad Ebanad in dist. Nilgiri, in Tamil Nadu, lecti sunt. Typus (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A) in herbario Centrali nationali, ad Calcuttam (CAL), isotypi (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F) et paratypi autem (*Subbarao* 40477 A-J) in herbario regionis australis Bot. Surv. India ad Coimbatore (MH) positi sunt.

Arundinella setosa Trin var. **nilagiriana** var. nov. (Poaceae—
Arundinelleae)

A perennial grass with whitish woolly base, culms up to 30 cm, slender, terete, smooth, almost glabrous, \pm striate, erect; nodes glabrous. Leaf blades narrow, linear, tapering to a point, striate, 7.5-9 \times 0.2-0.4 cm, hirsute on both sides with tubercle based hairs, ciliate on margins with similar hairs; sheaths clasping the culms, striate, hirsute as leaf blades; ligule very thin, membranous, hairy with long white silky hairs. Inflorescence an erect panicle, 8-12 cm long; axis terete, striate, scabrid; branches 3-6 cm, alternate, distant; pedicels often in pairs, one long-one short, dilated below the spikelet, scaberulous and always with long bristles near the tip. Spikelets 5-7 mm long, gaping. Lower glume 5-6.5 mm long, dark purple in colour, ovate-acuminate, shortly aristate, firm, 3-nerved, nerves anastomosing at the tip, bristly with tubercle based colourless hairs; upper glume 5.5-7 mm long, light yellow, membranous, ovate-cuminate, the upper one third forming a narrow beak clasping the awn, 5 nerved, nerves anastomosing at the tip, pubescent.

¹ Accepted March 1975.

Lower floret ♂; lemma 3-4 mm long, membranous, rounded on the back, oblong-obtuse, keeled, scaberulous without in the upper half; palea elliptic-obtuse, a little shorter narrower and thinner than the lemma, rather flat; stamens 3; anthers 1.5 mm long. Upper floret usually ♀, rarely ♂; lemma 2-2.5 mm long with a hairy callous, shining, scabrid without, lanceolate with a stout twisted awn at the apex in between two colourless scabrid setae; palea almost of the same size and texture; awn up to 7-8 mm long, geniculate, scabrid; column 3 mm long, chestnut brown; stamens 3; anthers 2 mm long; ovary smooth, 1 mm long; styles 2-2.5 mm long; stigmas plumose, 1.5 mm long. Caryopsis not seen.

This taxon is allied to *Arundinella setosa* Trin. var. *lanifera* Fisch. but differs from it in having hirsute glumes.

The holotype *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A and isotypes *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F and paratypes *Subbarao* 40477 A-J were collected respectively by G. V. Subbarao and G. R. Kumari on 11-ix-1970 and by G. V. Subbarao on 25-iii-1972 near Koilbetta (1850 m alt.) at Ebanad in Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu. The type (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A) has been deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL), the isotypes (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F) and paratypes (*Subbarao* 40477 A-J) have been deposited in the Regional Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to late Dr. N. L. Bor, Kew Herbarium for kindly scrutinising the specimen and giving his valuable opinion and to the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for his help. We are also thankful to the Forest Department, Tamil Nadu and the Director, Botanical Survey of India for facilities provided; to Rev. Fr. Dr. K. M. Matthew, S.J., for the latin diagnosis; to Dr. S. K. Jain and Dr. R. B. Majumdar of Botanical Survey of India for scrutinising the specimen and giving their valuable opinion.